

144 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-3601
802-828-2177

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Susan J. Barrett, J.D., Executive Director

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

July 28, 2022

Mr. Steven Horton
SHCCSI
PO Box 399
Walpole, NH 03608

RE: Docket No. GMCB-014-21con, North Country Hospital, Construction and Renovation Project Involving the In-Patient Department, Emergency Department, Lab Department, OT/PT/ST Department and Access and Canopies. Total Project Cost: \$27,898,176.

Dear Mr. Horton:

Thank you for your responses to the sixth set of questions for the above reference project (the “project”). Please respond to the questions below.

1. In your response to the second set of questions, question 5, and fourth set of questions, question 11, NCH responded that “the project is not forecasted to increase payer rates”, and that the rate increases of 4.2% in FY 2023, 3.2% in FY 2024, and 2.2% in FY 2025, built into the model were only to cover normal operational expense increases. However, it has come to our attention that NCH has requested a 12.45% increase in rates in its recent hospital budget submission. Confirm whether NCH’s prior response that the project is not expected to increase payer rates is still accurate. Also, please confirm whether the requested 12.45% increase in FY 2023 is included or excluded in the financial tables you have submitted for the project.
2. In addition, NCH has represented that if needed, NCH has sufficient reserves to finance the total cost of the project (\$27,898,176) with reserves alone which would decrease Days Cash on Hand from 291 to 172. Given NCH’s reserves, please explain whether there have been any changes in NCH’s financial situation and whether the hospital’s financial situation is still strong enough to implement the project at this time.

In responding, restate the question in bold font and respond in unbolded font. Send an electronic copy to me at donna.jerry@vermont.gov and one hard copy (three-hole punched) with a Verification Under Oath to my attention at the Green Mountain Care Board, 144 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602.



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 802-760-8162.

Sincerely,

s/ Donna Jerry

Senior Health Policy Analyst
Green Mountain Care Board

cc. Laura Beliveau
Staff Attorney

